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THE HEALTH OF DUNSTABLE

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1963

H.A.A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Montpelier House,

High Street South,

Dunstable.

August, 1964

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1963.

According to the Registrar General's figures the population increased by 720 over 1962. This is almost the same figure as for the preceding year (740) so it is apparent that the population of the Borough is gradually becoming stabilised.

Except for measles, which was very prevalent, there were no outbreaks of any infectious diseases during the year.

Circulatory and malignant diseases are still the commonest cause of death. There were nine deaths from lung cancer compared with eleven in 1962.

I wish to acknowledge the help that has always been given to me by the Town Clerk and the Public Health Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H.A.A. Pargeter

Medical Officer of Health
Borough of Dunstable

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

H.A.A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Telephone No. Dunstable 63526)

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector

H. STEW. M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods Certificate.
(Telephone No. Dunstable 61241)

(c) Additional Public Health Inspectors

M. HINCHCLIFFE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods Certificate
(Appointed Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector in April, 1963)

W.P.S. RAE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Meat and Other Foods Certifica
R.S.H. Smoke Inspector's Diploma.

(d) Chief Clerk

A.G. SANDERSON

(e) Shorthand Typist

Miss R.M. DANSON

(f) Clerical Assistant

Miss L.I. MADDOCKS (from May, 1963)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough (in acres)	2,084
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1963	27,200
Number of inhabited houses - according to Rate Books ..	8,380
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1963	£2,240,706
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March	£9,275
Number of new houses erected: (a) Council	0
(b) Private	232

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population: Crude	Rate per 1,000 population: Corrected
Total	345	307	652	23.9	18.9
Legitimate	328	293	621		
Illegitimate	17	14	31		

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Total	4	6	10	0.38	15
Legitimate	4	6	10		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Total Live and Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Total	349	313	662
Legitimate	332	299	631
Illegitimate	17	14	31

Infant Deaths (under one year of age)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Live Births: Total	Rate per 1,000 Live Births: Legitimate	Rate per 1,000 Live Births: Illegitimate
Total	6	3	9	13.8	12.2	1.5
Legitimate	6	2	8			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Live Births Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Total	2	3	5	7.6	6.1	1.5
Legitimate	2	2	4			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			

Infant Deaths (under one week of age)

	Male	Female	Total			
Total	2	3	5	7.6	6.1	1.5
Legitimate	2	2	4			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			

Stillbirths and Deaths under one week of age

Stillbirths	10
Deaths	5
	15

Combined rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births = 22.6

Illegitimate Live Births = 4.7% of total live births

Maternal Deaths = Nil

Deaths

Male	126
Female	114
Total	240

Deaths Rates

All causes: Crude	8.8
Adjusted	12.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Tuberculosis	-
Influenza	0.07
Smallpox	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Pneumonia	0.80
All causes under one year of age	0.33

Notifications (Corrected)

Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
Meningococcal Infection	-
Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	0.44

/continued over

Diphtheria	-
Erysipelas	-
Smallpox	-
Measles	12.0
Pneumonia	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic ..	-
Non-Paralytic	-
Food Poisoning	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Dysentery	0.25

POPULATION

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural
1954	17,570	300	5.2
1955	18,140	570	5.2
1956	19,020	880	9.3
1957	20,150	1,130	9.9
1958	21,300	1,150	10.0
1959	22,320	1,020	11.3
1960	23,460	1,140	9.7
1961	25,740	2,280	8.3
1962	26,480	740	7.9
1963	27,200	720	6.4

Natural Increase shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

The average yearly increase for the last five years is 980

BIRTH RATE

The number of births is largely determined by the number of women of child-bearing age resident in the area, thus the birth rate cannot be compared with another area unless it is of a similar sex and age structure or until some allowance is made in the calculation. This is the function of the comparability factor, this being supplied to all areas by the Registrar General.

The birth rate for 1963 was 18.9 after multiplying by the comparability factor of 0.86. The crude rate for the year under review was 23.9.

The total number of live births was 652.

STILL BIRTHS

The number of still births was 10 and the still birth rate 0.36 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for 1,000 total live and still births was 15.2

DEATH RATE

The uncorrected death rate was 8.8 as compared with 8.1 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.42 by which a corrected death rate of 12.5 obtained.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
All causes	126	114	240
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningoccal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	-	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	12	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	5	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	17	28
Coronary disease, angina	33	16	49
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	4	14	18
Other circulatory diseases	4	5	9
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	14	8	22
Bronchitis	12	2	14
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	13	22
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	1	1

Cancer of the stomach caused 7 deaths, compared with 4 last year. Cancer of the bronchus (lung) caused 9 deaths compared with 11 last year.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths below 55 years of age:	23	17	40
Deaths over 75 years of age:	38	58	90

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred in 1963.

INFANT MORTALITY

The total number of infant deaths was 9 of which 6 were male and 3 female giving an infant mortality rate of 13.8 per 1,000 live births over the year. Three infant deaths were due to prematurity, 2 to congenital malformations, 1 to heart disease, 1 to intestinal obstruction, 1 to broncho-pneumonia and 1 to asphyxia.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month was 5 corresponding to a rate of 7.6 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year:

Disease		Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever		-
Whooping Cough		11
Diphtheria		-
Measles		328
Acute Pneumonia		2
Meningoccal Infection		-
Acute Poliomyelitis:	Paralytic	-
	Non-Paralytic	-
Acute Encephalitis:	Infective	-
	Post Infectious	-
Dysentery		7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		-
Puerperal Pyrexia		-
Smallpox		-
Paratyphoid Fever		-
Typhoid Fever		-
Food Poisoning		1
Jaundice		-
Erysipelas		-
Malaria		-

Whooping Cough

11 notifications were received, making a case rate of 0.44 per 1,000 population.

Measles

There were 328 cases in 1963, the majority of which were notified during the early months of the year. The case rate was 12.0

Food Poisoning

One case was notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.03

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases:

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	2	-	-
25 - 44 years	2	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	-	-

Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the last five years

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1959	6	5	-	-	11
1960	8	4	2	-	14
1961	7	2	-	3	12
1962	3	1	-	1	5
1963	3	2	-	-	5

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

Persons in need of care and attention

This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who:

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions; and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for cumpulsory removal to hospital of any persons during the year.